

SEWANHAKA

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sewanhaka Central High School District

Strategic Plan



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Dear Families, Staff, and Community Members,

The Sewanhaka Central High School District has a proud tradition of providing a comprehensive secondary educational program. In 1929, Sewanhaka High School opened its doors to the elementary school districts of Elmont, Floral-Park Bellerose, Franklin Square, and New Hyde Park-Garden City Park. Since then, our district has grown and now proudly educates the students in our five high schools – Elmont Memorial, Floral Park Memorial, H. Frank Carey, New Hyde Park Memorial, and Sewanhaka – each with its own identity but all part of one central high school district.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, the district embarked on an ambitious journey to encapsulate our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for our students by creating a Portrait of a Graduate. The development of the Portrait involved a committee of over sixty people – parents, community members, faculty, staff, administrators, and most importantly, students. The Portrait is our “North Star” that will guide our district for years to come.

To help us navigate our school community to this Portrait of a Graduate, we are pleased to share the outcome of our joint efforts by also presenting the district’s new Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan for 2022-2025:

- **MISSION** – Communicates who we are and what we value in the Sewanhaka Central High School District
- **VISION** – Conveys our ambitious commitment to our students and what we aspire to achieve as a district

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

The goals of the Portrait of a Graduate process are to adequately shape students based on the community’s vision of what a Sewanhaka Central High School District graduate should be and to prepare them for a successful life beyond school. The competencies the committee selected to achieve these goals are **Adaptability, Communication, Critical Thinking, Empathy, and Perseverance**.

These competencies illustrate the focus of an ideal Sewanhaka Central High School District experience for our students and will prepare them to thrive as learners and leaders in the world. We are proud of the collaborative effort from all five school communities that produced this Portrait.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND STRATEGIES 2022-2025

Building on our mission and vision while focused on the Portrait of a Graduate, for the next three years we will focus on three strategic goals with accompanying strategies:

- Innovative Teaching and Learning
- United School Community
- Caring and Responsive Culture

For each year of the Strategic Plan, the administration will present an annual plan to advance our ambitious goals and strategies to the Board of Education and our school community. An annual approach will allow for the plan to be dynamic and adapted as needed.

We look forward to communicating progress regularly in all these areas over the next three years. We trust that our school community will support our efforts to accomplish these goals. Together, we are committed to providing a meaningful and vibrant Sewanhaka Central High School District experience that supports every learner to reach their highest potential and ultimately make a meaningful difference in the world.

Sincerely,

James J. Grossane, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Michael A. Jaime
President, Board of Education



MISSION STATEMENT

The Sewanhaka Central High School District promotes a caring and responsive culture in support of a thriving school community that develops 21st century skills and mindsets. As a community, we have created a Portrait of a Graduate to exemplify our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for our students.



VISION

The Sewanhaka Central High School District is a community committed to fostering adaptability, communication, critical thinking, empathy, and perseverance in preparation for success in our global society.

“Great community support can take schools to the next level.”

— A design team member



PROCESS

Sewanhaka Central High School District community members, in conjunction with district leadership, developed our Portrait of a Graduate, which serves as the vision for our strategic plan. This process began in Fall 2021 and concluded in the Summer of 2022. The process had roughly 80 stakeholders: parents, community members, students, and educators. We acquired a balanced portrayal of our present reality and identified priorities to help our Portrait come to life. We established goals and strategies through an iterative vetting process from these priorities, constantly using stakeholder feedback to guide their development.



PREPARE

Identify stakeholder participants and establish timelines, tasks, and logistics. (Fall 2021)



ENVISION

Discuss our shared hopes, dreams, and aspirations for all our students. (Fall 2021)



INQUIRE

Explore our current state and desired state in light of our Portrait of our Graduate vision. (Spring 2022)



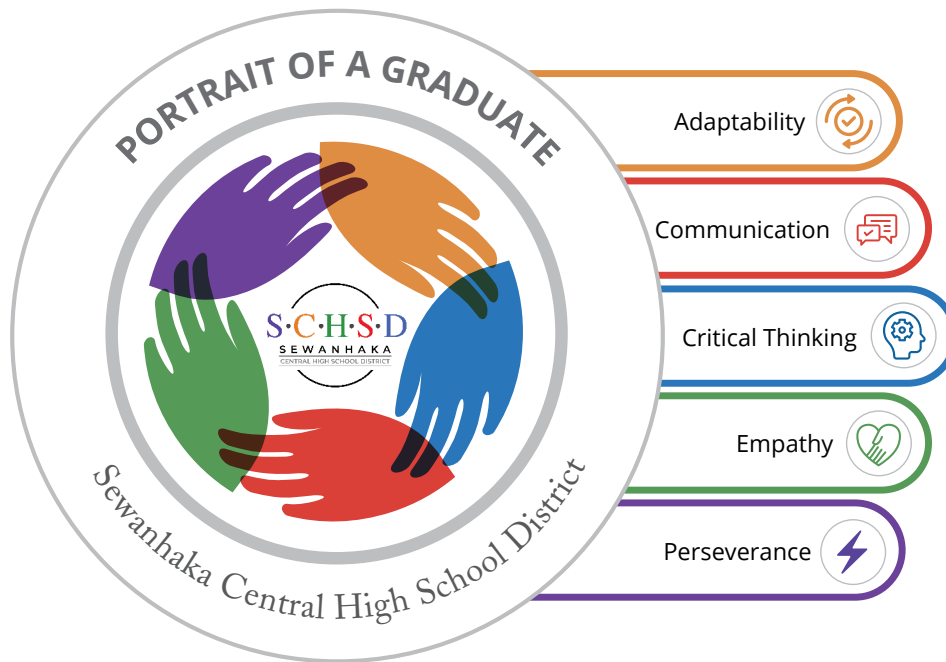
DESIGN/ DEVELOP

Determine the priority areas going forward to bring our Portrait of a Graduate to life for every student. (Spring 2022)



IMPLEMENT/ SUCCEED

Build capacity and resources systemwide to bring the Portrait of a Graduate vision to life and measure progress. (Spring/Summer 2022)



Adaptability

A graduate...

- Demonstrates flexibility when acclimating to various roles and situations.
- Acknowledges and balances diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions while maintaining individuality.
- Responds productively to feedback, praise, setbacks, and criticism.

Communication

A graduate...

- Articulates thoughts and ideas effectively in a variety of forms and contexts.
- Actively listens to effectively understand meaning, including the knowledge, values, attitudes, and intentions of others.
- Uses communication for a range of purposes and audiences (e.g., to inform, instruct, advocate, motivate, and persuade).

Critical Thinking

A graduate...

- Consistently improves the quality of one's own thinking by thoughtfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing information.
- Applies disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded, and informed by evidence.
- Understands the "bigger picture" and proposes creative solutions that are mindful to the impact they may have on other parts of a system.

Empathy

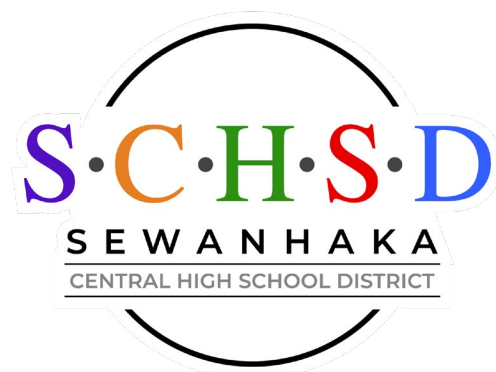
A graduate...

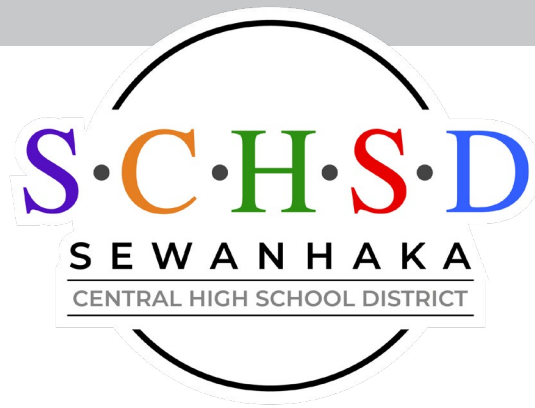
- Demonstrates awareness, sensitivity, concern, and respect to connect with others' feelings, opinions, experiences, and culture.
- Embraces global citizenship through imagining, understanding, and responding to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of others.

Perseverance

A graduate...

- Exhibits steadfastness in achieving success despite difficulty, opposition, and/or failure.
- Reflects on successes and failures to refine the path forward.
- Possesses the desire to learn, unlearn, and relearn.
- Persists to overcome adversity and obstacles to uncover alternate strategies to achieve goals.





PRIORITY AREA 1:

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Sewanhaka Central High School District (SCHSD) will purposefully integrate rigorous academic content with experiences that intentionally cultivate skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for all students to become lifelong learners and responsible, engaged citizens.



PRIORITY AREA 2:

UNITED SCHOOL COMMUNITY

SCHSD will establish a unifying and enduring vision for the community's shared aspirations for all students: a 21st century vision that is locally developed but globally positioned.



PRIORITY AREA 3:

CARING AND RESPONSIVE CULTURE

The SCHSD community nurtures a welcoming, inclusive environment that values diverse perspectives and cultivates engagement across a safe school community.

“These are the goals we need! We appreciate the focus on students producing and creating—authentic learning.”

— A design team member



PRIORITY AREA 1:

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Sewanhaka Central High School District (SCHSD) will purposefully integrate rigorous academic content with experiences that intentionally cultivate skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for all students to become lifelong learners and responsible, engaged citizens.

SCHSD will:

- 1.1: **Apply** creativity to rigorous instructional practices and learning experiences with challenge-based, project-based, and student-centered learning.
- 1.2: **Challenge** students to persevere and solve complex real-world, relevant problems to develop essential critical thinking skills in the face of adversity on the path to success.
- 1.3: **Create** opportunities for students to articulate thoughts and ideas effectively in various forms and contexts while actively listening to understand varying viewpoints.
- 1.4: **Develop** learning environments for students to respond productively to feedback, praise, setbacks, and criticism.

“[This plan is] ...looking at decision making in a way that we focus on what’s important and remove what is unimportant.”

— A design team member



PRIORITY AREA 2:

UNITED SCHOOL COMMUNITY

SCHSD will establish a unifying and enduring vision for the community's shared aspirations for all students: a 21st century vision that is locally developed but globally positioned.

SCHSD will:

- 2.1: **Ensure** alignment with the district's vision amongst the five high schools by fostering a high functioning and interdependent network that includes the broader community.
- 2.2: **Provide** all staff with robust opportunities for professional learning and development to foster adaptability, communication, critical thinking, empathy, and perseverance in the service of our students.
- 2.3: **Strengthen** the district's unifying identity while celebrating each school community's uniqueness.
- 2.4: **Develop** partnerships and relationships with local businesses and organizations to provide meaningful experiences to help students successfully prepare for careers in our global society.

“We feel good that there is a framework with clear priorities. We are excited about the opportunity to take what this initiative has taught us, and see how it can be applied in a classroom setting.”

— A design team member



PRIORITY AREA 3:

CARING AND RESPONSIVE CULTURE

The SCHSD community nurtures a welcoming, inclusive environment that values diverse perspectives and cultivates engagement across a safe school community.

SCHSD will:

- 3.1: **Engage** all students and staff throughout the district to actively participate in our school community by providing opportunities and support.
- 3.2: **Create** opportunities to promote inclusivity by sponsoring district-wide events celebrating our diverse student and staff community.
- 3.3: **Ensure** a safe school community where all students and staff demonstrate awareness, sensitivity, concern, and respect for others.
- 3.4: **Promote** global citizenship and empathy through imagining, understanding, and responding to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of others.

“Reading the goals and priorities, I had the Rocky theme song playing in my head. I feel excited to implement these goals and work towards the priorities. These priorities have been necessary for our district, and it is thrilling for me to see where these efforts will lead.”

— A design team member



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you! We are grateful to the students, teachers, administrators, Board of Education members, parents, and business and community leaders who collaborated with us to develop our Portrait of a Graduate and Strategic Plan.

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Leadership Team

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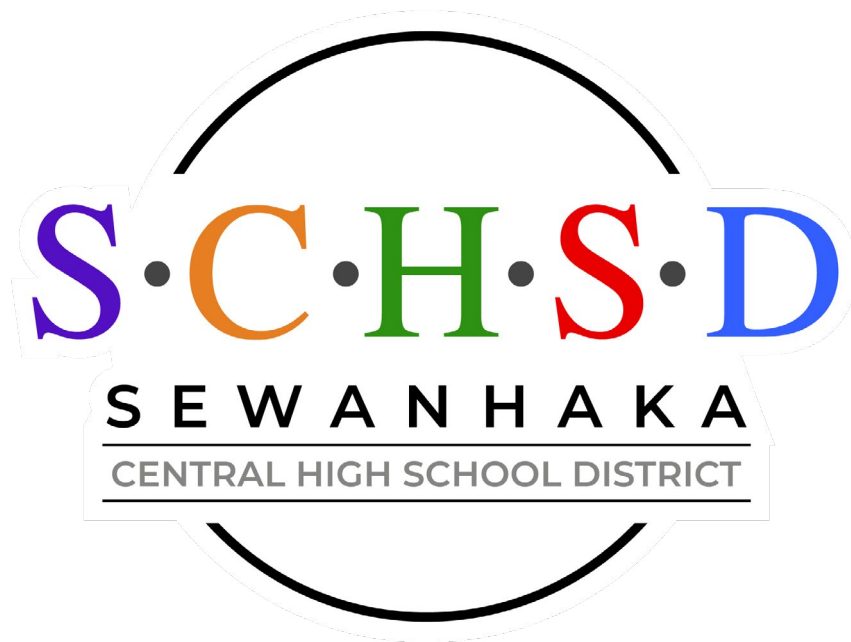
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Thank you!



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